

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 USIA-12 /024 W

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R 191815Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4057

UNCLAS LONDON 12195

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL FELLOWSHIPS IN THE ARTS

REFERENCE: STATE 205916, STATE A-5368

1. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REMINDER. WE WERE SO INVOLVED LOCAL UNFOLDING THIS BICENTENNIAL PROJECT WE NEGLECTED GIVE YOU INTERIM REPORT TO SHARE WITH ENDOWMENT.

2. EMBASSY HAS OF COURSE DISCUSSED FELLOWSHIPS WITH FCO, AND IS IN CONTINUOUS TOUCH WITH THE SEVERAL FCO OFFICES CONCERNED. REACTIONS: FCO CULTURAL RELATIONS OFFICE WAS, AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, VERY ENTHUSIASTIC. OTHER FCO SUB-SECTIONS, PARTICULARLY SECRETARIAT FOR BRITISH BICENTENNIAL LIAISON COMMITTEE, WERE COOLER, NOT BECAUSE THEY RESISTED IDEA, BUT BECAUSE FELLOWSHIP SCHEME WOULD TAKE SIZEABLE BITE FROM THEIR AS YEAT UNDECIDED BUDGET.

3. BICENTENNIAL LIAISON COMMITTEE BUDGET OF 500,000 POUNDS HAS NOW BEEN APPROVED, AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT COMMITTEE MEETING SET FOR SEPTEMBER 27. AFTER SOME LIVELY DISCUSSION, FCO HAS CLOSED RANKS IN FAVOR OF FELLOWSHIP PROPOSAL, AND WILL STRONGLY RECOMMEND THROUGH SECRETARIAT THAT COMMITTEE ENDORSE PROJECT, EARMARKING FUNDS FOR FULL FIVE YEARS.

4. EMBASSY EXPECTS NO SURPRISES AT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING, AND WILL HAVE DRAFT NOTE FOR DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT, APPROVAL SOONEST THEREAFTER IN ACCORDANCE GROUND RULES.

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MEANWHILE, PAO FORWARDING BY LETTER PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

FOR MULLING AND REPLY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARTS, GRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON12195
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740263-1085
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740932/aaaabavh.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 205916, STATE A-5368
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BICENTENNIAL FELLOWSHIPS IN THE ARTS
TAGS: SCUL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005